

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 IGA-01 AID-05 /057 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE NIACT 3825

INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE NIACT

CINCPAC HONOLULU IMMEDIATE NIACT

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE NIACT

UNCLAS BANGKOK 8146

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, TH, US, VS

SUBJ: CHAT CHAI ON VIETNAMESE AIR FORCE PLANES AT UTAPAO

FOREIGN MINISTER CHAT CHAI CHUNHAWAN HELD A NEWS CONFERENCE MAY 6 BEFORE HE MET WITH THE CHARGE. FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION OF HIS REMARKS ON THE VIETNAMESE AIR FORCE PLANES AT UTAPAO:

REPORTER: WHAT DECISION WAS REACHED BY THE CABINET IN REGARD TO THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PLANES?

CHATCHAI: THE PRIME MINISTER WILL MAKE A STATEMENT ON THAT HIMSELF PRESENTLY.

REPORTER: BUT IN YOUR CAPACITY AS FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE TASK ENTRUSTED YOU BY THE CABINET

CHATCHAI: THE PRIME MINISTER WILL MAKE A STATEMENT HIMSELF. I HAVEN'T MET THE AMERICAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES YET.

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REPORTER: HAVE YOU REPLIED TO THE LETTER FROM HANOI?

CHATCHAI: I HAVE ANSWERED IT ALREADY AND IT HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN ALL NEWSPAPERS.

REPORTER: PLEASE MAKE A STATEMENT ABOUT THE PLANES FIRST.

CHATCHAI: NO ACTION AT ALL HAS BEEN TAKEN IN REGARD TO THE PLANES YET. IN OTHER WORDS, WE WILL SEIZE THEM FIRST UNDER THAI LAW, BECAUSE THEY WERE BROUGHT INTO OUR COUNTRY ILLEGALLY, THEREFORE WE MUST SEIZE THEM FIRST. I HAVE MADE AN APPOINTMENT TO MEET THE AMERICAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES THIS AFTERNOON TO HOLD TALKS.

REPORTER: SUPPOSE THEY SPEED UP REMOVING THEM?

CHATCHAI: I DON'T KNOW YET.

REPORTER:

CHATCHAI: GOOD HEAVENS* HOW CAN THEY BE TAKEN AWAY* THEY CANNOT BE TRANSPORTED EASILY. WAIT A MINUTE AND THE PRIME MINISTER WILL MAKE A STATEMENT HIMSELF.

REPORTER: WHAT ABOUT THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER WHICH WILL ARRIVE HERE?

CHATCHAI: IT WILL REMAIN OUTSIDE THAI TERRITORIAL WATERS.

REPORTER: WHEN WILL YOU MEET THE AMERICAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES?

CHATCHAI: THIS AFTERNOON.

REPORTER: IN REGARD TO WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES, WILL WE TAKE UP FOR CONSIDERATION THE WITHDRAWAL OF FIGHTER PLANES ALSO?

CHATCHAI: YES. HOW CAN PLANES BE PARKED WITH NOBODY KEEPING GUARD OVER THEM. THEY HAVE TO TAKE THEIR PLANES AWAY WITH THEM. I DON'T KNOW YET BECAUSE THIS IS A MATTER WHICH CONCERNS THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. THE ONLY POLICY OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IS ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES, THAT THEY MUST BE COMPLETELY WITHDRAWN WITHIN ONE YEAR'S TIME. WE HOLD NEGOTIA-
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TIONS
IN PRINCIPLE ONLY, BUT I DO NOT KNOW DETAILS.

REPORTER: IN REGARD TO THE CONTACT MADE BY VIETNAM REQUESTING THAT PLANES BE RETURNED TO IT, THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY HAS SUGGESTED THAT THIS WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR THEM TO COME AND HOLD NEGOTIATIONS WITH US.

CHATCHAI: YOU OUGHT TO GO AND PUT THIS QUESTION TO THE DEMOCRATIC
PARTY.
MASTERS

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